

HANDBOOK OF GYNAECOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS — For Practitioners and Students—Walter Neuweiler, M.D., Professor of Midwifery and Gynaecology and Director of the Gynaecological and Obstetrical Clinic in the University of Berne. Translated from the German by Dr. Paul Ederer, Grune and Stratton, New York, 1952. 447 pages, \$12.00.

In 1946 Professor Walter Neuweiler of the University of Berne in Switzerland published a manual of instruction on gynecologic diagnosis for students and practitioners. Neuweiler pointed out that it was not meant to compete with standard textbooks but aimed at guiding student and practitioner alike in organizing a logical approach to therapy through the orderly development of clinical diagnosis, leaving the details of laboratory diagnosis to more elaborate texts. The book, written in a crisp, descriptive German, discussed clinical diagnosis of the disturbances of the female genito-urinary tract in a broad and informative manner and was well illustrated with photographs of major and minor lesions albeit rather skimpy on morphologic illustrations. The book made good reading for anybody fully conversant with medical German.

Grune & Stratton of New York now offer an English translation by Paul Ederer, titled "Handbook of Gynaecological Diagnosis." It contains the same number of illustrations but is briefer than the original. In comparing this translation with the original one cannot escape sensing that the translator did his job with considerable help from the dictionary but in so doing managed to misinterpret the meaning of many words, therewith distorting the intent of important deductions related to the significance of the symptoms. One cannot help but wonder if the translator actually was conversant with gynecologic matters. He certainly was not adequately conversant with the comparative value of words as used in German and English. For instance, in speaking about menstrual irregularities the original clearly defines the difference between oligomenorrhea and polymenorrhea but the translator lumps them as "regular hemorrhages of menstrual character." Mistranslations of this sort are encountered throughout the English translation and do injustice to the original and rob it of its delightfully precise descriptiveness. For anybody not familiar with the original this may not be so evident although the reader still will be puzzled over some of the statements as they appear here. For those who can overlook these shortcomings the book offers itself as a good guide to diagnosis.

A very brief bibliography is appended to the text. Evidently, Neuweiler compiled his manual primarily on the basis of personal experience without an attempt to bring in comparative information. However, there is nothing new in his book that one could not find as readily in any recent edition of American textbooks of gynecology. If the translation were perfect one might overlook this and say to those who enjoy surrounding themselves with many books that this diagnostic manual can serve a purpose in offering itself as a quick reference guide. One might add that if the publishers would condescend having the translation revised by an expert it would do better justice to the original author.

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INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR WORK—Neville M. Goodman, M.A., M.D. (Camb.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond. Univ.) The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 327 pages, \$6.50.

That disease has been the most profound moulder of human history is a thesis for which much substantiation can be found. Malaria was a major factor in the decline of both Greek and Roman civilizations; smallpox contributed to the conquest of the natives of the western hemisphere by Europeans; syphilis and bubonic plague wrought havoc in Europe; and cholera and smallpox, along with malaria,

have served to keep the peoples of the East in privation. Several military campaigns were turned more by typhus than by the genius of generals.

Early international efforts to control the spread of contagion were more restrictive than cooperative, but the interests and the necessities of commerce led to agreements between nations to exchange information and to trust each other to control the export of infection, rather than maintain rigid quarantine barriers to prevent its importation. Within the present century, there has been growing awareness that "No man is an island, entire of itself," nor is any nation, and that the health of each remote country affects the welfare of all. Although only a few favored areas have accomplished the eradication or practical control of man's ancient pestilences, the worldwide achievement of these goals is within our capabilities by the application of known methods of demonstrated effectiveness. We can even be bold enough to say, "Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being . . ." and "The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security . . ."

Neville Goodman provides a detailed history of the progress of international organization for the outlined purposes. He writes from the vantage point of active participation in the work of the Health Organization of the League of Nations, UNRRA, and the World Health Organization. He has had access to many original sources, which he quotes extensively, and presumably, accurately. He is more concerned with setting down the facts than with interpretations of significances, but even so, he is not without an occasional moment of humor and such cogent observations as the uncomfortably hot weather of New York City during the World Health Conference of 1946 at which the Constitution of the World Health Organization was adopted.

This is a book of lasting value. As memories dim with the passing years, it will become increasingly useful as the sole reference in which the detailed record of an important episode of human endeavor has been collected. It will provide the background for the interpretation of documents whose meanings may become clouded by the changing values of words.

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ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY IN PRACTICE—3rd Edition—Ashton Graybiel, M.D., Captain, MC, USN, Director of Research, United States Naval School of Aviation Medicine, Pensacola; Paul D. White, M.D., Executive Director, National Advisory Heart Council; Consultant in Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital; Louise Wheeler, A.M., Executive Secretary, Cardiac Laboratory, Massachusetts General Hospital; and Conger Williams, M.D., Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 378 pages, 294 figures, \$10.00.

This atlas of electrocardiography is a sound, relatively superficial discussion of the modern concepts of electrocardiography. Its strengths consist of the authoritative comments by the outstanding authors, its section on arrhythmias, its excellent illustrations, and its section on electrocardiograms for interpretation by the reader. The weaknesses concern the relative paucity of discussion of the physiological and electrical factors responsible for the electrocardiogram, a relatively weak section on vectorcardiography, and a failure to clearly represent the developing patterns of electrocardiographic abnormalities. The illustrations largely represent well defined patterns. Incompletely developed patterns are ones that the physician frequently encounters and it is these, more than the obvious patterns, with which he needs most help.

In general, the book is an excellent summary of conservative modern-day electrocardiography and a distinct improvement over the second edition.